

United States Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Security Message for U.S. Citizens
Countrywide General Strike (Hartal) Sunday, December 15
December 14, 2013

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) has called a nationwide hartal (strike/shutdown) on Sunday, December 15, from 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

A hartal is a mass protest and can involve a total shutdown of the country. It is a recognized political method for articulating any political demand. Hartals can turn violent if the population or political groups enforce the shut down. Violence can also occur the evening/night before a hartal. We advise all U.S. citizens to exercise caution and avoid unnecessary travel throughout the country.

The U.S. Embassy is taking a prudent approach to ensure the safety of all employees. Please note that U.S. Embassy employees and their family members are restricted to the Diplomatic Enclave (Banani, Baridhara, and Gulshan) from 6 p.m. Saturday, December 14 until 6 p.m. Sunday, December 15.

Due to isolated incidents in the diplomatic enclave, including the use of homemade low-performance explosive devices, Embassy personnel have been advised to exercise caution and minimize movement and exposure even within the enclave during a hartal.

Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

Review your personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security and follow instructions of local authorities.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Bangladesh enroll in the Department of State's [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Internet website at travel.state.gov where the [Worldwide Caution](#), [Country Specific Information](#), [Travel Warnings](#), and [Travel Alerts](#) can be found. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well. Download our free Smart Traveler app, available through [iTunes](#) or [Google Play](#), to have travel information at your fingertips.

In addition to information on the internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, from other countries, on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday through Friday, Eastern Time (except U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy is located at Madani Avenue, Baridhara, Dhaka, Bangladesh 1212, and by telephone at (88) (02) 882-3805 during regular hours. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is (88) (02) 885-5500. For after-hours emergency services please press "0" and ask for the duty officer.

American Citizens Services
U.S. Embassy
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Clearance:

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